

# WATER CYCLE IN A BAG

## Objective

Identify the components of the water cycle and observe the water cycle by constructing a simple, miniature model.

## Materials Needed

Clear plastic bag  
Measuring spoon  
Rubber band or twist-tie

## Procedure

1. Pour 2 teaspoons of water into a clear plastic bag.
2. Blow air inside the bag with your mouth and quickly seal the bag closed with a rubber band or twist-tie (zippered bags work well too).
3. Place the bag on a sunny window ledge or tape directly to the window pane. Look at the bag throughout the day. What changes do you see?

## Conclusion

Water molecules are constantly on the move in what is called the **water cycle** (or hydrologic cycle). Heat from the sun causes the water to **evaporate** and become a vapor. As the water vapor cools, it **condenses**, forming tiny droplets which gather to form clouds. As the droplets get larger, they become heavier causing them to fall to the ground as **precipitation** (like rain, sleet, or snow). Some of this precipitation joins lakes and streams (called **surface water**), and some of it soaks into the ground where it becomes **groundwater**. The process of water soaking into the ground is called **infiltration**, or **recharge**.

## Activity Source

[The Groundwater Gazette](#), published by The Groundwater Foundation